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President's Weekly Perspective, 2007_07_02

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Monday Morning Message -- July 2, 2007

Good morning.

Many of us can look forward to a short week this week, what with the Fourth of July. If you're taking some extra time off around the holiday, my best wishes to you. Have fun. The rest of us will be staying busy.

I met with the Deans last Friday and as expected, learned a lot more about the University of New Mexico. I applaud these individuals for their vision and greatly appreciate their candor. The executive leadership team and I can look forward to several frank and enlightening discussions with them.

Last week, I also had the opportunity to meet one of UNM's favorite sons, Brian Urlacher. I am very impressed with this young man. Brian is a credit to UNM and would be with or without his obvious success.

It's the season for retreats. We've been preparing for upcoming sessions with both the executive leadership team and with our Regents. The goal is to have our vision, game plan and solidified team in place by the end of the summer.

So when I talk to groups, as I did to the Advancement management team last week, inevitably the topic turns to anticipated change in the workplace. And invariably I'm reminded of Spencer Johnson's marvelous little book, *Who Moved My Cheese?* I highly recommend it to anyone who hasn't read it. It's a simple story that you can get through in less than an hour, but it definitely provides food for thought - "new cheese," if you will. We all should remember that change can mean we'll gain something, not lose anything. It depends on how you choose to think about it. (pg. 59) It's also best to enjoy the change, savor the adventure and be ready to change again. Because they keep moving the cheese! (pg. 74)

I think the more we break down any silos, the more we communicate and the more we trust, we will then be more ready to embrace the culture change at this university. And the better it will be for our students. That's the bottom line.

Have a good week and a great holiday.

David J. Schmidly